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Copy 1 of 4

31 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT: Requirements for Photo Reconnaissance  
in Southeast Asia

1. This memorandum requests your approval of para-  
graphs 4 and 5.

2. Planning for [redacted] in Southeast Asia was based  
on highest priority targets in North Vietnam with peripheral coverage  
of Hainan Island and South China border region. About 85% of these  
targets were covered. Two highest priority targets on Hainan were  
not covered. Targets in Laos of lower priority were also submitted  
but with only one mission authorized, the distance factor did not per-  
mit coverage of targets in Laos.

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3. Attached hereto is a paper prepared by the Army  
emphasizing the increased importance of the Laos targets, in the  
absence of a political settlement at Geneva. The COMOR concurs  
with these requirements.

4. Recommendations: COMOR again recommends  
coverage of Hainan Island and South China (targets which bear upon  
the ChiCom capability to provide military support in the event of a  
Communist push southward) which can be obtained only by penetration.  
The urgency for this coverage in terms of military contingency plan-  
ning has not changed. COMOR also recommends the coverage of  
Laos.

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5. If permission cannot be obtained to overfly Communist China at this time, the COMOR recommends that coverage of Laos by whatever means available be authorized as soon as possible.

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James Q. Reber  
Chairman  
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:

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CONCUR:

The recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 are approved.

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STANLEY W. BEERLI Date  
Colonel USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD/DDP

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR. Date  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

UG 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Mr. Cunningham	<i>SAC</i>	<i>9/7</i>
2	and		
3	Mr. Reber	<i>Reb</i>	<i>9/7</i>
4		<i>Reb</i>	<i>9/7</i>
5		<i>Reb</i>	<i>9/7</i>
6		<i>Reb</i>	<i>9/7</i>
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks: In amplification of the recommendation made in this paper, I informed Mr. Bissell (following a conversation with Col. Beerli) that the recently approved RB-26 missions will take care of -- or at least contribute to -- the Laos part of this requirement. The requirements for ~~Hainan~~ <sup>Hainan</sup> Island and South China remain unsatisfied. They will, of course, require the approval of the Special Group. Mr. Bissell handed this paper back to me and asked that I return it to you with the request that the appropriate Special Group papers be prepared.

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ROUTING IP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		INITIALS	DATE
1.	Mr. Reber		17 SEP 1961	<i>Johnson</i>
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
RETURN TO SENDER				
ACTION		CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	
COMMENT		FILE	SIGNATURE	
REMARKS				

You will note that RMB has not signed this paper in the place you had provided. However, [ ] points out that his note should govern in this instance. Accordingly, would you be good enough to do your usual Churchillian job of developing a paper for the Special Group.

FROM	
NAME AND ADDRESS	
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.	
Acting Chief, DDP, DD/P	

DATE  
7 Sept. 1961

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